



# Carl Spalding Gates Jr.

AUG 14, 1957 - MAY 23, 2020



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## **Carl Spalding Gates Jr.**

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**C**arl Spalding Gates, Jr., 62, a Lewes-based attorney and investment advisor, died at home on May 23, 2020, surrounded by family, after a brief, brutal struggle with pancreatic cancer.

Gates, known since childhood as “Chip,” was an accomplished engineer, attorney and investment counselor. After graduating from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with Bachelor of Science degrees in both mechanical and management engineering, he began his career in 1980 at the DuPont Co. He later worked at AIG in Wilmington before leaving to earn a law degree from Widener Law School. He founded his own law firm, Gates and Associates, in Chadds Ford, PA, and later worked as a vice president at Fifth Third Bank in Evansville, IN, followed by stints at KPMG in Scottsdale, AZ, and Grant Thornton in McLean, VA. He established his own investment firm, Wealth Capital Investors, after moving to Lewes in 2009.

A gifted athlete and enthusiastic traveler, Gates was a 1975 graduate of Wilmington Friends School, where he met his future wife, Gretchen Helmbreck, to whom he was married for more than 40 years. They lived for over a decade in Centreville and later Chadds Ford, PA. Known by family and friends for his infectious laugh, optimism and wry sense of humor, Gates frequently hosted family and friends at the couple’s home and the two Lewes restaurants he co-owned with his son, The Buttery and Bushi Sushi. A longtime member of Wilmington Country Club, he also enjoyed golf, biking and surf fishing (although no one remembers him ever catching an actual fish.)

In addition to his wife, Gates is survived by three sons, Carl S. III, Wilson C., and Taylor M. (Tina); his parents, Carl S. Gates Sr. and Carolyn Fay Gates of Jennersville, PA; his brothers David (Kathleen), Scott (Stephanie) and a sister, Carolyn Connors (Sean); two grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins along with two sisters-in-law and two brothers-in-law.

Services and burial will be private.



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In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 1500 Rosecrans Ave., Ste. 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, <https://www.pancan.org/>

Please sign Mr. Gates's online guest book located on the tribute page on this site.



## Tribute Wall

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**Bill Kester** posted:

It's May 23, 2022 and The Carl Gates Family is coping with the anniversary of Chip's death plus their very recent loss of Chip's dad, and my friend from decades ago, Carl, Senior. There are no words to lighten the burdens visited all too soon upon some families except to acknowledge that getting older is a privilege which is sadly denied to many and to express our sincere sympathy to the Gates family in Lewes and Wilmington. Bill and Holly Kester, South Carolina

May 23 at 7:28 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Ghirardelli Gift Basket to the Gates family.



November 22 at 4:10 AM



**Richard Dziura** posted:

Gretchen and family, I am so sorry to hear about Chip. Although we communicated only a couple of times since fraternity days at WPI, I feel the loss of a wonderful man. I was a year ahead of Chip at WPI but he was many years ahead of me in life. His confidence and concern for all those around him were qualities I greatly admired. His spirit is present in all who were close to him. Be comforted with the knowledge that his love lives on within you all. God bless you, Rich Dziura, WPI, SAE class of '78 .

November 22 at 3:59 AM



**Karen Howarth** posted:

Gretchen, I am so sorry to hear about Chip! He was a wonderful man! Our condolences to you and your sons. RIP dear Chip. Karen Howarth and Phil Rosenberg

June 22 at 8:29 AM



**Teresa Ford** posted:

Gretchen, I'm so sorry for the loss of your husband, Chip. I realize this is so close in time to the loss of Alice as well. It seems like more than a mere mortal can endure but many people have you in their thoughts and prayers and are sending you strength. They were both wonderful people and the world will miss them both. With caring thoughts, Tee

June 19 at 8:49 AM



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MM

**Mrs. Ralph Mccool** posted:

RIP, Mrs. Ralph (Emma Grace McCabe) McCool

June 13 at 8:27 AM

KG

**Katie Geiszler** posted:

Gretchen, I am so sorry for your loss. You were both lucky to have each other for forty years and go on so many adventures together. Katie Geiszler (and Lady)

June 10 at 7:58 AM

JL

**John Li** posted:

To the Gates Family, In the short two plus years that Chip was my landlord at the Buttery and 2nd St. Tavern, I remember fondly our conversations about investing and life in general. Like most professional financial advisors, he had a reasoned opinion on almost anything, which made him a wonderful person to talk with. We will all miss him. John Li

June 9 at 9:59 AM

RO

**Ron & Trish Oliphant** lit a candle in honor of Carl.

Gretchen, we are very sorry for your loss. May your fond memories, a life full of joy, and God's grace sustain you and your family. Ronnie & Trish Oliphant

June 8 at 3:20 PM



WE

**Wendy** posted:

Oh Gretchen, I'm so sorry. I remember him fondly, though we only met once. That's such a great testament to the kind of person he was. My heart goes out to you and your whole family. I'll be keeping you all in my thoughts, and praying your memories will bring you peace. Love you! XOXO

June 7 at 5:29 PM

ST

**Susan Titus** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during your family's double loss. With love, Susan Titus and family

June 6 at 1:35 PM



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DP

**Dottie Pope** posted:

So heartbroken to hear about Chips untimely death. The Gates were my neighbors in Pilottown village . They immediately became a part of our family of friends . I have such great memories of Chip ! Never met a stranger ! RIP Chip Love Dottie Pope

June 6 at 4:15 AM

DS

**Dawn Schwartz** posted:

I didn't know Chip well, when Gretchen brought him to the Dogpark and introduced him to us, he was liked immediately, such a kind man. The love shared between him and Gretchen was obvious, she always lit up when talking about him and there adventures together. May he Rest In Peace ❤️

June 6 at 2:47 AM

PS

**Pam Sorce** posted:

Joe and I always enjoyed it when seeing us in one of your restaurants, he would come over and chew the fat with us. He was a great conversationalist. This was such a shock to hear of. We hope that you will be comforted by happy memories of this gracious and accomplished man.

June 6 at 2:20 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Carl by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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